



Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Ranger Guided Walks and Talks

June 11-Aug. 12, 2006

EVERY DAY PROGRAMS

Mountain Farm Museum

Adjacent to the Oconaluftee Visitor Center
Dawn to Dusk

Walk down to the farm for a glimpse into the past. Self-guiding brochures are always available and some days you may find demonstrations such as blacksmithing, hearth cooking, gardening, or woodworking taking place.

Accessible to persons using wheelchairs.

Mingus Mill Demonstration

Located less than a half-mile north of the Oconaluftee Visitor Center on US 441 (Newfound Gap Road)

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Chat with a miller and feel the rumble of this historic gristmill in action.

Accessibility: Two steps into mill

Welcome to the Smokies

Sugarlands Visitor Center front patio

10:00 a.m., 12:00 noon, 2:00 p.m.

Join park staff for a short talk on nature and history in the national park.

Duration: 30 minutes

Cataract Falls Walk

Meet at Sugarlands Visitor Center front patio

11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m.

Join a ranger for an easy stroll through a rich forest to one of the hidden secrets of Sugarlands Valley:

Cataract Falls.

Duration: 1 hour

Level: Easy

Cades Cove Mill Area Walk

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center halfway around the Loop Road.

12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m.

Walk with a park ranger through several historic buildings that were important in the Cades Cove community.

Duration: 30 minutes

SUNDAYS

Black Bear Facts (for Jr. Rangers)

Le Conte Lodge on top of Mt. Le Conte.

9:30 a.m.

Join a park ranger in this discussion about the black bear.

Duration: 30 minutes

Bears in the Smokies

Oconaluftee Visitor Center, South Porch

10:00 a.m.

Join a park ranger and discover the most popular creature in the Smokies, the black bear. Learn how this animal has become a symbol of the Smokies and of wildness.

Duration: Ongoing 1 hour

Accessible to persons using wheelchairs.

Old Growth of Laurel Falls

Meet at Laurel Falls Trailhead on Little River Road

10:00 a.m.

Hike with a ranger past a beautiful waterfall to an old-growth forest.

Duration: 3 hours

Level: Moderate

Air Quality in the Great Smokies

Newfound Gap parking area

12:00 noon, 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m.

A short talk on how air pollution affects your park and your life.

Duration: 15 minutes

Little Cabin in the Woods

Noah "Bud" Ogle farmstead on Cherokee Orchard Road (near Gatlinburg).

1:00 p.m.

Meet park staff on the front porch of the Ogle cabin for a glimpse into early farm life in the Smokies. The talk is followed by a short walk to the "tub" mill site.

Duration: 1 hour

Down on the Farm

Mountain Farm Museum adjacent to the Oconaluftee Visitor Center

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

See what old-time activities families may have done: quilting, woodworking, or gardening. Demonstrations vary.

Duration: Ongoing two hours

Accessible to persons using wheelchairs.

Junior Ranger Program

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center halfway around the Loop Road.

2:30 p.m.

Bring the family for a hands-on exploration of the Cove.

Duration: 45 minutes

Why are the Trees Dying?

Le Conte Lodge on top of Mt. Le Conte

4:00 p.m.

Talk to a ranger and find out what's killing the fir trees on top of Mt. Le Conte.

Duration: 30 minutes

Sunset from Mt. Le Conte

Meet at Clifftops on top of Mt. Le Conte

8:00 p.m.

For persons camping in the backcountry shelter or staying at Le Conte Lodge. This program provides a

great opportunity to ask a ranger questions about the park. Flashlights recommended.

Duration: 1 hour

Level: Moderate

Night Hike

Meet in Smokemont Campground

8:45 p.m.

Move beyond the comfortable glow of the campfire and explore the Smokies nightlife. Limited to 25 participants. Call (828) 497-1904 up to four days in advance to make reservations.

Duration: Approximately 1 hour

Level: Easy, less than one mile

MONDAYS

Cades Cove Hayride

Meet at the Cades Cove Riding Stable

7:00 a.m.

Enjoy an open-air hayride, view wildlife, and explore the rich cultural history of Cades Cove.

Duration: 2 hours

Fee: \$8 per person

Walk with a Ranger-Naturalist

Meet at Sugarlands Visitor Center to carpool

9:00 a.m. (no program July 17)

Go into the woods to learn some of the major issues in managing this special place: including non-native plants and animals like hemlock woolly adelgid, wild pigs, and Mimosa; as well as bear management, brook trout restoration, the biodiversity inventory, and old-growth forests.

Duration: 2 1/2 hours

Level: Moderate

Hen Wallow Falls of Cosby

Meet at the Cosby Picnic Area parking lot

9:30 a.m.

Join a ranger on this 4.2 mile roundtrip hike to beautiful Hen Wallow Falls.

Duration: 2 1/2 hours

Level: Moderate

Cherokee Pottery (for Jr. Rangers)

Meet at the shelter in the upper section of Collins Creek Picnic Area

11:00 a.m.

Step back in time for a hands-on demonstration about a life-ways skill of the Cherokee culture. We'll make an actual piece of pottery fashioned in the style used by the inhabitants of the Qualla Boundary.

Duration: 45 minutes

A Fed Bear is a Dead Bear

Meet at Sugarlands Visitor Center front patio

11:30 a.m.

Learn about bears and other Smoky Mountain wildlife at this short talk and demonstration.

Duration: 30 minutes

Clingmans Dome Walk

Meet near the bulletin board at Clingmans Dome Trailhead

11:00 a.m. (starting June 19)

Walk to the park's highest peak and experience the magic of the mountains.

Duration: 1 hour

Level: Difficult, 1/2 mile

Solitude on the A.T -An exploration into the wilderness of the Smoky Mountain highlands along the world famous Appalachian Trail

Newfound Gap parking area

1:00 p.m.

Take a 1-2 mile hike with a ranger on the mile-high Appalachian Trail.

Duration: 2 hours

Level: Moderate

Salamander Foray

Meet at Chimney Tops Picnic Area parking area

1:30 p.m.

Visit the world of salamanders as we explore their habitat in streams and beneath wood and rocks.

Limit: 25 persons-An adult needs to accompany young children. Sign-up in advance at the Sugarlands Visitor Center front desk.

Duration: 1 1/2 hours

Level: Easy

Going Buggy (for Jr. Rangers)

Oconaluftee Visitor Center, South Porch

2:00 p.m.

Join park staff to learn about the insects and spiders living in the leaf litter beneath our feet. Collect them and study their "larger-than-life" size on the big screen.

Duration: 45 minutes

Cades Cove Junior Ranger Program

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center halfway around the Loop Road.

2:30 p.m.

Bring the family for a hands-on exploration of the Cove.

Duration: 45 minutes.

Jeop-BEAR-dy (for Jr. Rangers)

Elkmont Campground Amphitheater

4:00 p.m.

Want to learn more about the park's most famous inhabitant? Test your knowledge by joining a ranger-led activity that will help you investigate and explore the secret life of the black bear.

Duration: 45 minutes

Stream Splashers

Oconaluftee Visitor Center, South Porch

6:00 p.m.

Roll up your pants and wade through a mountain stream to look for salamanders, damselflies, and other critters. Be prepared to get wet.

Duration: 1 hour

Level: Easy

Smokemont Logging History Walk

Smokemont Nature Trail (in the Smokemont Campground)

7:00 p.m. (starts June 19)

Walk the Smokemont Nature Trail and discover Smokemont as a logging camp.

Duration: 1 hour

Level: Easy to Moderate (sturdy shoes recommended) approximately 1 mile

Our Nightly Neighbors (a hike for Jr. Rangers)

Meet at Clingmans Dome Trailhead

8:00 p.m.

Discover the creatures of the night. Challenge your senses as we climb toward the highest mountain in the park. Bring a flashlight and be prepared to enjoy a beautiful sunset.

Duration: 1 1/2 hours

Level: Moderate, 1 mile

Cades Cove Night Hike

Meet at the Orientation Shelter at the entrance to Cades Cove Loop Road

9:00 p.m.

Join a park ranger for an evening stroll and listen to the critters and spirits of Cades Cove. Wear good walking shoes and bring water and a flashlight.

Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

Duration: 2 hours

Level: Easy.

TUESDAYS

Back to the Future (for Jr. Rangers)

Meet at Porters Creek Trailhead

10:00 a.m. (no program July 4)

Join a ranger to travel back in time over 100 years to become part of the mountain community of Porters Flat. Explore old home sites and past ways of life.

Duration: 1 1/2 hours

Level: Easy, 2 miles

Junior Ranger Program

Cable Mill Historic Area blacksmith shop (halfway around the Cades Cove Loop Road)

10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m.

Join a park ranger to learn about the blacksmith and create your own item to take home. Group size is limited.

Duration: Groups start at times listed above. Program lasts 45 minutes. Limited to children ages 10-12.

School days of Yesteryear: Little Greenbrier School

Meet at Little Greenbrier School near Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area

10:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.

A look at life in the Smokies at the turn of the century (1880-1936). Explore this historic log school building and discover what classroom life was like a century ago.

Duration: 1 hour

Clingmans Dome Walk

Meet near the bulletin board at Clingmans Dome Trailhead

11:00 a.m. (starting June 20)

Walk to the park's highest peak and experience the magic of the mountains.

Duration: 1 hour

Level: Steep, 1/2 mile

Going Buggy (for Jr. Rangers)

Oconaluftee Visitor Center, South Porch

11:00 a.m.

Join Park staff to learn about the insects and spiders living in the leaf litter beneath our feet. Collect them and study their "larger-than-life" size on the big screen.

Duration: 45 minutes

Cades Cove Primitive Baptist Church

Meet at stop #4 on the Cades Cove Loop Road

12:00 noon & 1:00 p.m.

Precious memories still linger at the Primitive Baptist Church.

Duration: 30 minutes

Walk on the Wild Side (for Jr. Rangers)

Oconaluftee Visitor Center, South Porch

2:00 p.m.

Ever wonder what elusive wild animal just ran away from you in the woods? Join a ranger to become a nature detective. We will discover the ways to investigate animal sign, tracks, and scat.

Duration: 45 minutes

Walker Sisters' Farmstead

Meet at Little Greenbrier School near Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area

2:00 p.m.

Join a ranger for a 2.6 mile roundtrip hike to the Walker Sisters' home and farmstead.

Duration: 2 hours

Level: Moderate

Trekking the Trail

Sugarlands Visitor Center

4:00 p.m. (no program July 4)

Do you want to be a hiker? Do you love exploring nature? Join this family program and pick up some tips on hiking basics, Leave No Trace, animal clues, and reading the landscape.

Duration: 45 minutes

Stream Splashers

Meet in Smokemont Campground D Loop

6:00 p.m.

Roll up your pants and wade through a mountain stream to look for salamanders, damselflies, and other critters. Be prepared to get wet.

Duration: 1 hour

Level: Easy

Cades Cove Hayride

Meet at the Cades Cove Riding Stable

6:30 p.m.

Enjoy an open-air hayride, view wildlife, and explore the rich cultural history of Cades Cove.

Duration: 2 hours

Fee: \$8 per person

Night Hike

D-Loop of Smokemont Campground

8:45 p.m.

Move beyond the comfortable glow of the campfire and explore the Smokies nightlife. Limited to 25 participants. Call (828) 497-1904 up to four days in advance to make reservations.

Duration: Approximately 1 hour

Level: Easy

Cades Cove Evening Program

Cades Cove Campground amphitheater

9:00 p.m.

Join a ranger for a photographic journey through the park.

Duration: 1 hour

WEDNESDAYS

Birding and Salamandering (for Jr. Rangers)

Meet at Chimney Tops Picnic Area parking area

9:00 a.m. (no program June 14)

Watch birds and get fun facts to name them by sight and sound. Bring your binoculars or borrow ours. Catch and release 8-10 different types of salamanders in forest and stream habitats. Limit 15 children; an adult needs to accompany young children. Sign-up in advance at Sugarlands Visitor Center front desk.

Duration: 2 1/2 hours

Level: Easy

Junior Ranger Blacksmithing

Blacksmith Shop at the Mountain Farm Museum, adjacent to Oconaluftee Visitor Center

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Join a park ranger in the blacksmith shop and make your own dinner bell to take home. Limited to children ages 10 and older.

Duration: Groups start every 30 minutes, last group starts at 11:30 a.m.

Walk on the Wild Side (for Jr. Rangers)

Meet at the Mountain Farm Museum, adjacent to the Oconaluftee Visitor Center

10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Ever wonder what elusive wild animal just ran away from you in the woods? Join a Ranger to become a nature detective. We will discover the ways to investigate animal sign, tracks, and scat. All ages welcome.

Duration: 45 minutes

Clingmans Dome Walk

Meet near the bulletin board at Clingmans Dome Trailhead

11:00 a.m. (except August 2)

Walk to the park's highest peak and experience the magic of the mountains.

Duration: 1 hour

Level: Steep, 1/2 mile

Return of the Elk

Sugarlands Visitor Center front patio

11:30 a.m.

Learn about the reintroduction of elk to the Great Smoky Mountains at this short talk and demonstration.

Duration: 30 minutes.

Where's the View?

Newfound Gap parking area

12:00 noon, 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m.

Stop by Newfound Gap for a short, informal talk about how air pollution is affecting our lives.

Duration: 15 minutes

Cades Cove Junior Ranger Program

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center halfway around the Loop Road.

2:30 p.m.

Bring the family for a hands-on exploration of Cades Cove.

Duration: 45 minutes

Cherokee Pottery (for Jr. Rangers)

Meet at the shelter in the upper section of Collins Creek Picnic Area

3:00 p.m.

Step back in time for a hands-on demonstration about a life-way skill of the Cherokee culture. We'll make an actual piece of pottery fashioned like those made by the inhabitants of the Qualla Boundary.

Duration: 45 minutes

Return to Old Elkmont

Meet at the bridge at Elkmont Campground

6:00 p.m.

Join a ranger for a short walk to learn about Elkmont when it was a turn-of-the-century logging boom town.

Duration: 11/2 hours

Level: Easy

Cades Cove Hayride

Meet at the Cades Cove Riding Stable

6:30 p.m.

Enjoy an open-air hayride, view wildlife, and explore the rich cultural history of Cades Cove.

Duration: 2 hours

Fee: \$8 per person

Smokemont History Walk

D-Loop of Smokemont Campground

7:00 p.m. (starts June 21)

Hike to a cemetery and learn about the people and rich history of the Smokemont area.

Duration: 11/2 hours; approximately 1 mile.

Level: Moderate (sturdy shoes recommended)

THURSDAYS

Cades Cove Hayride

Meet at the Cades Cove Riding Stable

7:00 a.m.

Enjoy an open-air hayride, view wildlife, and explore the rich cultural history of Cades Cove.

Duration: 2 hours

Fee: \$8 per person

Creepy Critters (for Jr. Rangers)

Meet at Metcalf Bottoms picnic pavilion

10:00 a.m.

Ever wonder about the creepy crawly critters of Great Smoky Mountains National Park? Join a ranger on this adventure into the dark and mysterious world of salamanders, bugs, and macro-invertebrates. Wear shoes you can get wet.

Duration: 11/2 hours

Level: Easy

Weaving (for Jr. Rangers)

Mountain Farm Museum, adjacent to Oconaluftee Visitor Center

10:00 a.m.

Join a ranger to learn about weaving, carding wool, and spinning and dyeing yarn. Participants will get hands-on experience weaving a project they can take home with them while completing a step toward earning their official Junior Ranger badge! Ages 7-12.

Duration: 45 minutes

Porters Creek on Greenbrier

Meet at Porters Creek trailhead in the Greenbrier area

10:00 a.m.

Join a ranger for a walk in one of the less-visited areas

of the park. Learn about the history of this one-time farm community and enjoy the plants and wildlife that inhabit the area today.

Anikituwahgi: The Cherokee of the Appalachians

Oconaluftee Visitor Center, South Porch

11:00 a.m.

Learn about the inhabitants of the Qualla Boundary, home of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians, as we discuss aspects of their past and present.

Duration: 30 minutes

Accessible to persons using wheelchairs.

Clingmans Dome Walk

Meet near the bulletin board at Clingmans Dome Trailhead

11:00 a.m.

Walk to the park's highest peak and experience the magic of the mountains.

Duration: 1 hour

Level: Steep, 1/2 mile

A Walk with the Long Man

Oconaluftee Visitor Center, South Porch

1:30 p.m. (except June 15, August 3)

Stroll along the Oconaluftee River and discover some of the reasons this area was beloved by the Cherokee, desired by the re-settlers, and is now preserved for all people.

Duration: 45 minutes

Level: Easy, 1 mile

Cades Cove Junior Ranger Program

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center halfway around the Loop Road.

2:30 p.m.

Learn the traditional use of pottery.

Duration: 1 hour

What Lives in this Stream?

Meet at Chimney's Picnic Area, 1st parking lot on the right

2:30 p.m.

Did you ever wonder what exactly lives in a mountain stream? Come prepared to get wet.

Duration: 30 minutes

Ranger Secrets Exposed! (for Jr. Rangers)

Meet at Sugarlands Visitor Center

4:00 p.m.

Ever wonder how park rangers know so much about the animals, plants, streams, and trails in Great Smoky Mountains National Park? Join a ranger for an in-depth look on various topics such as sign, scat, wild-flowers, salamanders, insects, and more!

Duration: 45 minutes

Night Hike

D-Loop of Smokemont Campground

8:45 p.m.

Move beyond the comfortable glow of the campfire and explore the Smokies nightlife. Limited to 25 participants. Call (828) 497-1904 up to four days in advance to make reservations.

Duration: Approximately 1 hour

Level: Easy, less than 1 mile

FRIDAYS

No programs at Cades Cove July 28

Indians, Bushwhackers, and Conscripts": Life and Times of Smoky Mountain People during the Civil War

Meet at Sugarlands Visitor Center front patio

9:30 a.m.

Hear about Colonel Thomas and his legion of Cherokees, the Civil War outposts of Clingmans Dome, Fort Harry and Alum Cave, and the Battle of Gatlinburg.

Duration: 1 1/2 hours

Trek to Mt. Le Conte

Meet at Alum Cave Trailhead

10:00 a.m.

Join a ranger on this 5-mile one-way hike to the top of Mt. Le Conte.

Duration: All day

Level: Difficult

Clingmans Dome Walk

Meet near the bulletin board at Clingmans Dome Trailhead

11:00 a.m. (except July 14)

Walk to the park's highest peak and experience the magic of the mountains.

Duration: 1 hour

Level: Steep, 1/2 mile

The Oconaluftee Turnpike: 175 years later

Towstring Bridge, 1.5 miles north of Oconaluftee Visitor Center

11:00 a.m. (except July 14)

Take a stroll along one of the last remaining sections of the Oconaluftee Turnpike. Learn why this trans-mountain road was important for community, trade, and even war.

Duration: 1 1/2 hours

Level: Easy, 1.5 miles

Air Quality in the Great Smokies

Newfound Gap parking area

1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m.

A short talk on how air pollution is affecting your park and your life.

Duration: 15 minutes

Logs, Rails, and Culture Up Jakes Creek

Meet at Jakes Creek Trailhead in the Elkmont area

1:00 p.m.

Join a park volunteer on this hike up Jakes Creek. Visit the Avent Cabin; hear about Col. W. B. Townsend, "Daddy" Bryson, and others who were part of the history of the area.

Duration: 2 hours

Level: Moderate

Ranger on the Spot

Clingmans Dome

1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. (except July 14)

Meet Park staff stationed at Clingmans Dome to answer your questions about "what to do and see" while visiting the Park.

Down on the Farm

Mountain Farm Museum adjacent to the Oconaluftee Visitor Center

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (except July 14 and August 4)

Walk down to the farm and see what old-time activities families may have been doing: quilting, wood-working, or gardening. Demonstration activities vary.

Duration: On-going two hours

Accessible to persons using wheelchairs.

Cades Cove Junior Ranger Program

Meet at the Cades Cove Visitor Center halfway around the Loop Road.

2:30 p.m.

Bring the family for a hands-on exploration of Cades Cove.

Duration: 45 minutes

Cades Cove Hayride

Meet at the Cades Cove Riding Stable

6:30 p.m.

Enjoy an open-air hayride, view wildlife, and explore the rich cultural history of Cades Cove.

Duration: 2 hours

Fee: \$8 per person

Sunset from Mt. Le Conte

Meet at Clifftops on top of Mt. Le Conte

8:00 p.m.

For persons camping in the backcountry shelter or staying at Le Conte Lodge. This program provides a great opportunity to ask a ranger questions about the park. Flashlights recommended.

Duration: 1 hour

Level: Moderate

Cades Cove Night Hike

Meet at the Orientation Shelter at the entrance to Cades Cove Loop Road

9:00 p.m.

Join a park ranger for an evening stroll and listen to the critters and spirits of Cades Cove. Wear good walking shoes and bring water and a flashlight.

Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

Duration: 2 hours

Level: Easy

Family Night: Whose Poop's On My Boots?

Meet in the Smokemont Campground

8:00 p.m. (except July 14)

Grab the kids and meet a ranger for family night in the campground. Get the scoop on animal skins, tracks, and...poop! Come explore animal sign in the Smokies in an interactive way, test your knowledge against other visitors, become a certified "Track-a-scat-a-skin-ologist" and take home a memento of your adventure. Bring a blanket or chair to sit on.

Duration: 45 minutes

Accessible to persons using wheelchairs.

Under the Stars of Elkmont

Elkmont Campground amphitheater

9:00 p.m.

Join a ranger for a campfire and slide program on nature and history in the Smokies.

Duration: 45 minutes

SATURDAYS

Salamandering (for Jr. Rangers)

Meet at Le Conte Lodge on top of Mt. Le Conte.

9:30 a.m.

Join a ranger and go exploring for high elevation salamanders.

Duration: 1 hour

Old Growth of Laurel Falls

Meet at Laurel Falls Trailhead on Little River Road

10:00 a.m.

Hike with a ranger past a beautiful waterfall to an old-growth forest.

Duration: 3 hours

Level: Moderate

Pig Out at Chimney's Picnic Area: Non-native Pigs in the Park

Meet at Chimneys Picnic Area

11:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m.

Learn about the Smokies' wild pigs and the havoc they wreak in the park.

Duration: 30 minutes

Attack of the Adelgid: Threats to the Hemlock Forest

Grotto Falls Trailhead on Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail

1:00 p.m.

Hike with a park ranger through an old-growth hemlock forest along the trail to Grotto Falls. Learn about the hemlock wooly adelgid, a non-native insect that has infested our hemlock trees, and find out what park rangers are doing about it.

Duration: 3 hours

Level: Moderate

Junior Ranger Program

Meet at Cades Cove Visitor Center, halfway around the Cades Cove Loop Road

2:30 p.m.

Join a park ranger to discover the fascinating abilities of animals in Cades Cove. Compare their abilities with yours!

Duration: 1 hour

Ranger on the Spot

Cataloochee Valley-Palmer Chapel

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. (starting June 24)

Park staff stationed at Cataloochee Valley will be available to answer your questions concerning the elk reintroduction and other things to see in the park.

Stream Splashers

Meet in Deep Creek Campground

6:00 p.m. (starting June 24)

Roll up your pants and wade through a mountain stream to look for salamanders, damselflies, and other critters. Be prepared to get wet.

Duration: 1 hour

Level: Easy

Cades Cove Hayride

Meet at the Cades Cove Riding Stable

6:30 p.m.

Enjoy an open-air hayride, view wildlife, and explore the rich cultural history of Cades Cove.

Duration: 2 hours

Fee: \$8 per person

Balsam Campground Evening Program

Campfire Circle at Balsam Campground (upper end of campground)

7:00 p.m. (starting June 24)

End your perfect day in the Smokies by uncovering the marvels of these mountains with a park ranger.

Duration: 45 minutes

Level: Easy

Cataloochee Elk

Cataloochee Valley-Meet at the Palmer Chapel parking area

7:30 p.m. (starting June 24)

Walk with a park ranger to learn about the experimental reintroduction of elk into the Cataloochee area.

Duration: 45 minutes

Level: Easy

Hills, Hollers, and Harmonies: Music in the Great Smoky Mountains

Meet in the Smokemont Campground

7:30 p.m. (starting June 24)

Join a park ranger and learn about the music of the early settlers that still echoes strong within the hills and hearts of the Smokies. Bring a blanket or chair to sit on.

Duration: 1 hour

Deep Creek Campground Night Hike

Meet in Deep Creek Campground

8:45 p.m. (starting June 24)

Move beyond the comfortable glow of the campfire and explore the Smokies nightlife. Limited to 25. Call (828) 497-1904 up to four days in advance to make reservations.

Duration: Approximately 1 hour

Level: Easy

Cades Cove Evening Program

Cades Cove Campground amphitheater

9:00 p.m.

Join a ranger for a photographic journey through the park.

Duration: 1 hour

History of Mt. Le Conte

Le Conte Lodge on top of Mt. Le Conte

9:00 p.m.

Discover the fascinating history of one of the great mountains of the eastern United States.

Duration: 1 hour

Under the Stars of Elkmont

Elkmont Campground amphitheater

9:00 p.m.

Join a ranger for a campfire and slide program on nature and history in the Smokies.

Duration: 45 minutes

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Women's Work Festival

Mountain Farm Museum adjacent to Oconaluftee Visitor Center

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, June 17

Join park staff and volunteers for a glimpse into the past roles that

rural women held in the family and community. A variety of skilled demonstrations will be ongoing throughout the day.

Accessible to persons using wheelchairs.

Blacksmith Demonstrations

Saturday & Sunday, June 17 & 18

Saturday & Sunday, July 15 & 16

Saturday & Sunday, August 12 & 13

Learn the art of blacksmithing and why it was important in the Cades Cove community. Located at the blacksmith building near the Cades Cove Visitor Center, half way around the Cades Cove Loop Road.

Andrews Bald Hike

Meet at Clingmans Dome parking area

1:00 p.m., Sunday, June 25

Join a ranger on a hike to the most accessible of the Smokies' grassy balds to learn more about this unique high elevation feature.

Duration: 2 1/2 hours

Level: Moderate, 3 miles

The Smokies at Twilight: Sunset Hike to Clingmans Dome

Clingmans Dome parking area, near the bulletin board

6:30 p.m., Saturday, July 8

Join a ranger on a 1.5 mile round-trip sunset hike to Clingmans Dome, the highest point in the park.

Experience this remarkable area in all its glory. Wear sturdy hiking shoes or boots and bring a flashlight.

Duration: 1.5 hours

Kephart Prong Hike

Meet at the Kephart Prong Trailhead

9:30 a.m., Sunday, July 9

Explore the rich CCC and logging history along Kephart Prong Trail. Wear comfortable hiking shoes. Bring a bag lunch and water.

Duration: 5 hours

Level: Moderate, 4 miles

Cades Cove Full Moon Hike

9:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 11

Meet at the Orientation Shelter at the beginning of the Cades Cove Loop Road. Wear good hiking shoes and bring water.

Duration: 2 hours

Level: Moderate

The Light at the End of the Tunnel

Meet at the Lakeview Drive parking area near the tunnel

11:00 a.m., Saturday, July 15

Hike the Gold Mine Loop Trail with a park ranger to explore the historical and natural resources of the area. Wear comfortable hiking shoes. Bring a bag lunch and water.

Duration: 2 1/2 hours

Level: Moderate, 3 miles

An Evening at the Mountain Farm Museum

Mountain Farm Museum adjacent to Oconaluftee Visitor Center

7:00 p.m., Thursday, July 27

Join park rangers and volunteers for an evening on the farm with demonstrations and activities.

Duration: 1 1/2 hours

Accessible to persons using wheelchairs.

Deep Creek History Hike

Meet at the Deep Creek Trailhead parking area

10:00 a.m., Sunday, July 30

Join a park ranger to discover the history and families of the Deep Creek area. Wear comfortable hiking shoes. Bring a bag lunch and water.

Duration: 4 hours

Level: Moderate, 4.4 miles

Cataloochee Valley

Meet at parking area on left as you enter the Valley

10:00 a.m., Saturday, August 12

Hike with a park ranger in Cataloochee Valley and discover the rich history as you explore the area. Wear comfortable hiking shoes. Bring a bag lunch and water.

Duration: 4 hours

Level: Moderate, 5 miles